

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-07

OMB-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 /076 W

-----070845Z 054468 /23

R 061857Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1959

DEAHQS WASHDC

INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO

UNCLAS MEXICO 06822

PASS ALSO TO CUSTOMS AND AID

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: MISSION POLICY ON MEDIA CONTACTS

1. MISSION HAS ADOPTED A UNIFORM POLICY ON CONTACTS WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHICH APPLIES EQUALLY TO JOURNALISTS AND OTHER MEDIA REPS INTERESTED IN NARCOTICS. MISSION POLICY QUOTED BELOW:

(A) USIS HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MEDIA RELATIONS FOR THE MISSION. ALL CALLS OR QUERIES FROM THE MEDIA, BE THEY U.S. OR MEXICAN OR OF OTHER NATIONALITIES, SHOULD BE REFERRED TO G. CLAUDE VILLARREAL, PRESS ATTACHE, ROOM 257, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, TO DAVID ROBERTS, PRESS OFFICER, OR WILLIAM H. GRAVES, AUDIO-VISUAL OFFICER. TELEPHONE: 553-3333, EXT. 505.

(B) MR. VILLARREAL, AS PRESS ATTACHE, IS THE MISSION'S SPOKESMAN. HE WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE QUERIES FROM THE MEDIA AND EITHER OBTAIN THE INFORMATION REQUESTED AND/OR UNCLASSIFIED

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MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICER. EITHER MR. VILLARREAL OR ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES WILL MAKE IT A POINT TO SIT IN ON INTERVIEWS WHEN SENSITIVE INFORMATION MIGHT BE DISCUSSED.

(C) REPORTERS WILL CONTINUE TO CONFRONT EMBASSY OFFICERS DURING CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH ARE UNAVOIDABLE. THIS COULD BE AT A CASUAL ENCOUNTER AT AN OFFICIAL FUNCTION OR AT

A PUBLIC CEREMONY. IF ANYONE IS CONTACTED BY A MEDIA REPORTER UNDER ANY SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES TO OBTAIN INFORMATION WHICH THE OFFICER MIGHT CONSIDER SENSITIVE, HE SHOULD REFER THE REPORTER TO MR. VILLARREAL. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO PERSONAL VISITS OR TELEPHONE CALLS.

(D) OUR PURPOSE IN SETTING THIS POLICY IS TO ASSURE THAT THE MISSION'S PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES ARE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHOM WE SERVE, WHILE ALSO COOPERATING WITH THE MEDIA IN THEIR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE PUBLIC INFORMED.

2. TO ASSIST MISSION PERSONNEL IN MAKING THIS POLICY WORK, WASHINGTON AGENCY PRESS OFFICERS ARE REQUESTED NOT RPT NOT TO REFER MEDIA REPS TO INDIVIDUAL AGENCY HEADS HERE, BUT INSTEAD TO GIVE THEM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF MISSION'S PRESS ATTACHE. THIS WILL PERMIT PRESS ATTACHE TO COORDINATE MEDIA VISITS WITH NARCOTICS PROGRAM OFFICERS AND TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE, FUNCTIONS WHICH THE PRESS ATTACHE'S OFFICE CAN HANDLE EXPEDITIOUSLY.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ACTION BY CUSTOMS AND DEA WASHINGTON TO DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO DOMESTIC OFFICES, WHICH SOMETIMES REFER MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO THEIR COLLEAGUES IN MEXICO. THOMPSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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